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*441 *467 lage, but nevertheless it should be listed as one of the essential features of the guilds.

(6) The expenses of operating the guilds are shared by the members. The greater part of their income usually is derived from fees paid by the members.

Other characteristics[2] fairly common but not always present are:

• [477] (1) A complete monopoly of the business, trade or profession in the guild area. This monopoly may be an explicit guild rule or it may be merely a natural consequence of the practical necessity on the part of guildsmen to join the guild if they are to make a living.

(2) Religious worship of the supposed guild founder or guild god, common especially among the craft and professional guilds, but also found in a goodly proportion of the commercial guilds.

(3) The apprentice system, characteristic of most guilds.

(4) An annual guild meeting at which important policies are settled, attended by all or part of the members, common to most guilds. A banquet of guild members is usually held in conjunction with this meeting.

Systems of organization are so various that it is impossible to make a blanket statement regarding a common type of guild structure.

G. Evaluation of the Guild System

An appraisal of the guild system is only possible in the light of the social setting in China. On the one hand, the guild organization was unquestionably an extremely effective and powerful weapon for aiding in the group survival in an economic situation where the prizes went to those who could work together to protect their mutual interests. The guild also enabled these common workmen to withstand the pressure of the mandarin and to hold fast the economic gains that they were able to make. While thus maintaining

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worse. Many of this group go into details regarding the lack of interest in the guild, assert that the members no longer consider it worth while to attend meetings. An almost equal number, sixteen, indicate that membership is increasing and that business is improving, while five declare their guild to be operating about as usual.

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B. What is Happening to the Guilds

We have already listed the seven types of guilds existing in China which have been described by various authors.[1] In considering what is at present happening to the guilds we shall deal only with those of economic nature, omitting "The Religious Fraternity" and the purely social Provincial Guild.

The Guild Merchants of Newchwang, Ningpo and Canton are disappearing. Dr. Ta Chen [2] reports that "even the great guild of Newchwang has lost a great deal of control in industry, commerce and labor." Dr. Chen does not analyze the circumstances that have caused this loss of power on the part of what were formerly very strong organizations. It is evident, however, that the three cities in which these great guilds are situated have in recent years become great centers both of foreign trade and of modern factory industry. This development would make the maintenance of such

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[1] *Cf.* pp. 16-18.

[2] Dr. Ta Chen is professor of sociology at Tsing Hua, the American Indemnity College in Peking. He received his doctor's degree at Columbia University in the Department of Social Science. Since his return to China he has become a recognized authority on the modern labor movement in his country. Among his published pamphlets are *Analysis of Strikes in China from 1918 to 1926*, published by the Chinese Government Bureau of Economic Information, and a monograph *The Labor Movement in China*, prepared for the Institute of Pacific Relations, held in July, 1927, in Honolulu.

In reply to our inquiry Dr. Chen sent a long and detailed letter, dated Dec 11, 1927, dealing especially with the future of the guilds. Much of our material on this subject is derived from this letter.

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monopolies as these organizations formerly held extremely difficult. The various circumstances affecting the craft and commercial guilds, described below, undoubtedly have had their effects on these larger associations.

The term "guild" when used without qualification in the following analysis will refer to the craft, professional and commercial guilds of the types included in this study and also to the provincial guild of the economic type.

In portraying the extremely complicated changes taking place in these guilds all that is here attempted is to point to certain definite trends at present apparent and then attempt to formulate therefrom general principles which may guide us in our predictions.

I. CERTAIN GUILDS ARE DISCONTINUING

a. There is a total disappearance of a large group of Peking craft guilds, the manufactured products of which are no longer in demand.

(1) The Brass Wash Basin Guild formerly made the substantial wash-bowl commonly used in Chinese homes. The modern enameled wash-pan, both cheaper and lighter, has completely taken its place. The guild has disappeared.

(2) The guild made up of markers of the colored thread formerly woven into the queue, dissolved when the style of hair-dress changed.

(3) The makers of the old-fashioned tobacco pouch, which was used also for carrying money, no longer find a sale for their goods as modern styles have displaced the older model.

(4) The Sword Guild disappeared when the demand for this weapon decreased.

Many other guilds for similar reasons are showing signs of a fast-approaching disappearance. The guilds are de-